

# SMOKE SIGNALS

*For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs*

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 32nd Year

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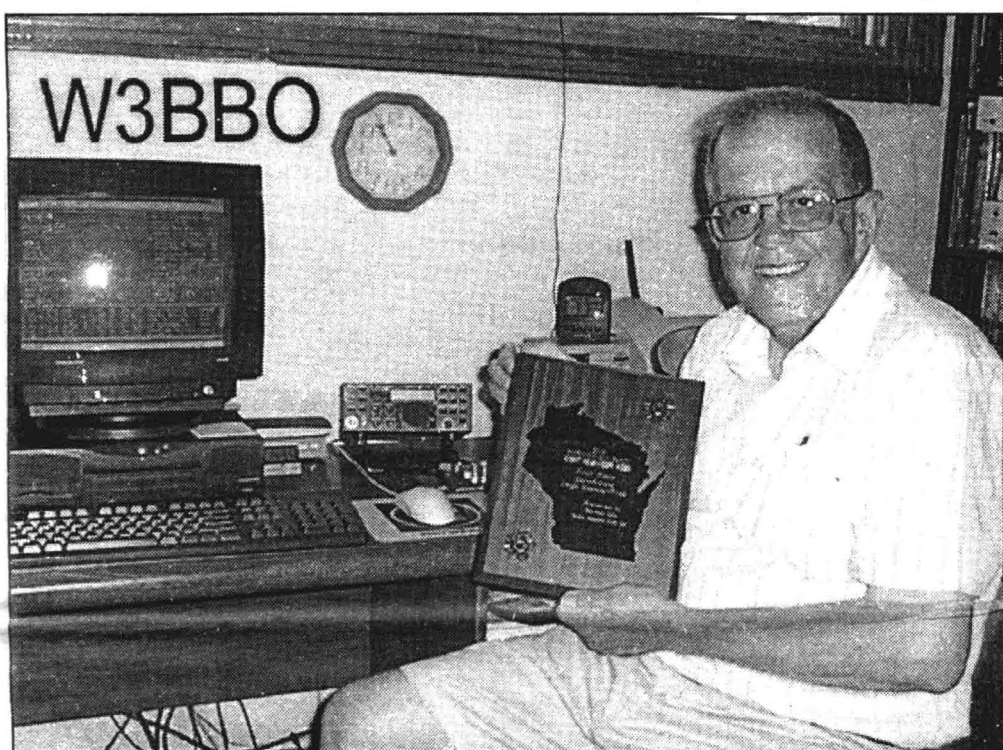
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822 Wauona Trail  
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## W3BBO: Number 1 in the nation in the 2001 Wisconsin QSO Party



Bob Reisenweber, W3BBO (above), of Pennsylvania, took top honors in the 2001 WQP, sponsored annually by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club. He took top honors running QRP, with 155 CW contacts in 55 Wisconsin counties for a total score of 34,100 points. He was asked to scribe a story about his ham radio history and interests, and here's the result.

- Photo courtesy W3BBO and K9KR

I was first licensed as WN3BBO (Nov-ice) in 1955 and upgraded to General within the year to keep the call W3BBO. I then served 4 years in the USAF as a radar technician. Returning to Erie, I spent my ham radio time chasing DX and contesting, using mostly Heathkit gear, tower and tribander. However, prior to retirement, I spent 8 years in New Jersey, where I lived in an apartment and was "antenna challenged".

With long working hours and a terrible commute, I discovered QRP and became associated with a great bunch of people in the NJQRP club. QRP allowed me to operate from the apartment without causing stress amongst my neighbors, or with the XYL. Operating from a picnic table at a local park was also found to be very enjoyable. I did a little mobile operating also, but always gravitated back to the picnic table.

Back home in Erie after retirement, my first construction project was a Wilderness Sierra which uses plug in band modules. It runs 2 to 3 watts and does a great job in the field. It only uses 30 mA on receive and 450 mA on transmit, so it is very easy on batteries, and is still used for portable operations.

When Elecraft announced its K2, I had to own one. Other QRP gear I've used has worked well, but always seemed lacking in selectivity and/or sensitivity when receiving. The K2 is an amazing little radio and its receiver ranks right up there with the "big" rigs!

Antennas include a horizontal loop

which is approximately 250' long and anywhere from 30 to 40 foot high. It is fed with 450 Ohm line using a 4:1 balun and the K2's ATU on all bands, 80 through 10 meters. With the feedline tied together and fed against ground with a tuner, it does an excellent job on 160 meters. This setup placed in the CQWW 160 contest in 2000.

The other antennas are verticals, an R5 for 10-20 meters and a Butternut HF-2V for 40 and 80 meters. The HF-2V is ground mounted and sits on top of 32 radials. Combinations of these antennas and the loop have brought in certificates for the ARRL CW DX contest and ARRL CW Sweepstakes in 2000.

I enjoy CW and contesting and recently have begun county hunting.

**FCC lowers  
vanity fee  
effective  
September 10.**

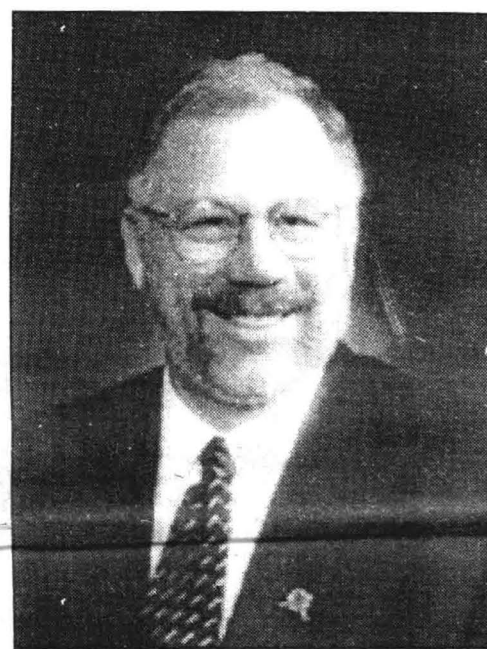
**Please see  
page 9 for  
details.**

## AB-368/PRB-1

## Rep. Joan Wade leaves Assembly



Rep. Joan Wade



Rep. Luther Olsen

State Rep. Joan Wade will leave the Wisconsin Assembly on August 31. She is resigning from the Assembly to allow her more time to be with her children, and will be accepting a position in Oshkosh, according to news sources.

Rep. Wade last spring had PRB-1 drafted for codification as Wisconsin law. The Committee on Local and Urban Affairs heard public testimony on AB-368 in May.

The bill will be in the hands of Rep. Luther Olsen of Berlin, according to Wade

aide Tanya Hein.

AB-368 may be voted out of committee in September, meaning a vote by the full Assembly could be taken when the legislature reconvenes in October.

If the bill passes the Assembly, it goes to the Senate, where Sen. Fred Risser will handle it. If AB-368 gets to the Senate, it will be referred to a committee, and a public hearing will be held by that committee.

Watch the BSSS web site at [bsss.org](http://bsss.org) for more immediate updates after September begins.

As this issue is being wrapped up for press, word has been received that Committee on Local and Urban Affairs, chaired by Rep. Gunderson, will meet the morning of September 12, and AB-368 will probably move out of committee for a floor vote in the Assembly, possibly in October. If it passes, next stop is the Senate, under the guidance of Senator Fred Risser.

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • [kebnetter@palacenet.net](mailto:kebnetter@palacenet.net)

### Swapfests And Other Social Events

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14-16. Amateur Radio, Computer and Electronics Show at Exposition Gardens, Peoria, IL. Sponsored by the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club. Features: Friday flea market preview, 3:00 p.m. until dark. Live music Saturday night. FCC testing. Gates: Open 3:00 p.m. Friday and 6:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Commercial building open Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 4:40 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information including ticket prices and advance setup times contact: [www.w9uvi.org](http://www.w9uvi.org) or regular mail Peoria Superfest, PO Box 3508, Peoria IL 61612-3508 or e-mail [w9uvi@arri.net](mailto:w9uvi@arri.net)

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 and 23 Radio Expo 2001 Sponsored by Chicago FM Club Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL, at Rts. 45 and 120. Conveniently located at between Chicago and Milwaukee, I-94 just to the east for easy access. Three large exhibitor buildings and a huge flea market. Indoor tables \$20 for the two days. Electricity \$10. VEC testing both days from 9 to 11 a.m. Free parking and camping (no service connection, electricity \$10.) Talkin' 146.76 w/PL 103.7. Info: Write CFMC, 348 W. Natoma Ave, Addison, IL 60101, or see us here: <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

### Badger State Smoke Signals

#### Amateur Radio Education and Information

**CHAIRMAN:** Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. [kebnetter@palacenet.net](mailto:kebnetter@palacenet.net)

**EDITOR:** Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031. [smokesigs@baraboo.com](mailto:smokesigs@baraboo.com)

**TREASURER:** Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

#### Subscription Rate

1 year (12 issues) \$13.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

#### When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2001, Decatur, IL.  
Contact: Spence Carter, N9LVW (21) 423-2095.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2001, Davenport, IA.  
Contact: <http://www.gwltld.com/hamfest>.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2002 30th Annual Mid-Winter Swapfest Sponsored by West Allis Radio Amateur Club Waukesha County Expo Center Forum 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Phil Gural, W9NAW, 414.425.3649 Web: <http://www.WARAC.org>

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002. Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Eau Claire County Expo Center (Same location as last five years). Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA. 1-715-838-9108. ECARC, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Web page: [www.ecarc.org](http://www.ecarc.org) Email: [w9eau@ecarc.org](mailto:w9eau@ecarc.org)

As a service to our readers, this section is available without charge to list your upcoming swapfest, hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to [kebnetter@palacenet.net](mailto:kebnetter@palacenet.net).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001 AMATEUR RADIO Fest 2001 Sponsor: The Milwaukee Repeater Club-Waukesha County Expo Center Forum buildings, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission: \$5.00, tables \$15 per 8 ft. table Electricity: \$15. Pancake breakfast 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Food available all day. Info: <http://www.exccpc.com/~mrc> Email: [mrc@exccpc.com](mailto:mrc@exccpc.com) Telephone: 1.262.367.3953

#### Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

#### Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. **THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.**

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*Badger State Smoke Signals* is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

#### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.



#### CLUB MEETINGS

See last months BSSS for full club meetings listing.

### The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

September 01, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
September 01, 2001	St. Paul, MN
September 01, 2001	Adams
September 01, 2001	Racine, WI
September 08, 2001	Madison, WI
September 08, 2001	Blaine, MN
September 13, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
September 15, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
September 15, 2001	Onalaska, WI
September 15, 2001	Loves Park, IL
September 15, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
September 15, 2001	La Crosse, WI
September 15, 2001	Sheboygan, WI
September 18, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
September 22, 2001	Bloomington, MN
September 29, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
September 29, 2001	Tomahawk, WI
October 06, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 06, 2001	St. Paul, MN
October 06, 2001	Racine, WI
October 11, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
October 12, 2001	Sioux City, IA
October 13, 2001	Madison, WI
October 13, 2001	Blaine, MN
October 16, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
October 20, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
October 20, 2001	Eau Claire, WI
October 20, 2001	Loves Park, IL
October 20, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
October 27, 2001	Bloomington, MN
October 27, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 27, 2001	Tomahawk, WI
November 03, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 03, 2001	St. Paul, MN
November 03, 2001	Menomonie, WI
November 04, 2001	Kaukauna, WI
November 08, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
November 10, 2001	Madison, WI
November 10, 2001	Blaine, MN
November 13, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
November 17, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
November 17, 2001	Loves Park, IL
November 17, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
November 20, 2001	Sheboygan, WI
November 24, 2001	Bloomington, MN
November 24, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
December 01, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 01, 2001	St. Paul, MN
December 01, 2001	Adams, WI
December 01, 2001	Racine, WI
December 07, 2001	Sioux City, IA
December 08, 2001	Madison, WI
December 08, 2001	Blaine, MN
December 13, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
December 15, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 15, 2001	Onalaska, WI
December 15, 2001	Loves Park, IL
December 15, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
December 15, 2001	La Crosse, WI
December 18, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
December 22, 2001	Bloomington, MN
January 19, 2002	Eau Claire, WI
January 26, 2002	Appleton, WI
April 20, 2001	Eau Claire, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI



Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN  
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI  
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN  
 Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN  
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
 (September through April)  
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL  
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN  
 Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN  
 Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)  
 (except December)  
 Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI  
 (January thru October only)

#### GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>  
 or  
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, WIAW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2001 test fee at \$10.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.shtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC

#### MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB (MRAC/VEC) MILWAUKEE

Last Saturday, except June, July, and August, 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road (the door you enter is actually numbered 5730), Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797- MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.65 for the exam fee. Walk-ins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

#### BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

September thru April, every third Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, Milwaukee (use the entrance numbered 5730). Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

EAU CLAIRE, WI  
 EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
 October 20, 2001, January 19, 2002: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. South Middle School, North East Side Door 7, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire. Walk-ins welcome.

Saturday, April 20, 2002: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Eau Claire Hamfest. Held at Eau Claire Exposition Center, Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire. Walk-ins welcome.

Examination session coordinator: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY, ka9omy@arrl.net Telephone: 715.839.6509. Sponsored by the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>, Email: w9eau@ecarc.org

#### FRIENDSHIP, WI

September 1 and December 1, 2001.

Exams given from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Adams County Electric Cooperative, Community Room, 401 E. Lake St. (CTH J), Friendship, WI. Exam fee: \$10.00.

All candidates should bring appropriate identification which bears a photo and signature. Candidates must present the original document of any current Amateur Radio license or CSCEs. A photocopy of the original documents must be sent along with the session paperwork. Walk-ins are permitted, but advance registration is appreciated. A candidate wishing to retest for the same element will be allowed to do so, provided the VE team has appropriate time and an additional exam fee is paid. There are no free exam elements.

Note that beginning June 1, 2001, multiple choice format Morse code tests will not be allowed. Code tests will be "fill in the blank" format only. Solid copy conditions will remain the same. Candidate registration may be submitted to Wayne Hemrbook, KB9NLQ, at 608.339.4169. Questions may be directed to Karl Simonson, KS9E, at 847.244.0802 or 847.778.0247. Karl Simonson, KS9E

#### MADISON, WI

First Saturday monthly: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space Place, 1605 South Park Street, Madison. Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and the original and a copy of any relevant CSCEs, and a check for \$10.00 made out to the ARRL/VEC. No appointments are necessary to take exams. Exams start promptly at 8 a.m.

2001 dates: September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwinka, WO9U, at 608.239.3696 (home phone) or sent to wo9u@arrl.net.

#### MENOMONIE, WI

Saturday, November 3, 2001. The location will be the U.W.-Stout's Millennium Hall 9 (the new Communications Building), at the corner of Broadway and 10th Avenue on the U-W Stout Campus in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Walk-ins only. Arrive between 9 and 11 a.m. For information, contact Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 235-3998 (H), or (715) 232-1397 (W).

#### RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (262) 886-8551.

#### TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No advance registration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

#### APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: W9MDP@arrl.net.

#### OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other neces-

sary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

#### SHEBOYGAN, WI

Saturdays, 9 a.m.: May 19, September 15

Tuesdays, 7 p.m.: March 20, July 17, November 20

Sessions will be held in the Red Cross building, 2023 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081, main floor. This testing site is handicapped accessible. Signs will direct applicants to the proper area of the building. Registration begins 30 minutes prior to each testing session. Pre-registration is appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, N8029 Willow Road, Plymouth, WI 53073-2929. (920) 876-2370. K9XJ e-mail: <k9xj@excel.net>

#### ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

February 21, May 19, September 15, and December 15, 2001. Tests will be given at the Onalaska Public Library at 9 a.m. Contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK. readers@centurytel.net

#### MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)-UPDATE NEEDED

Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park on the street or in the parking lot on the south side of the courthouse. Use one of the two entrances there. Watch for the signs when you get into the building. Talk-in on the 147.15 (+600 kHz, 114.8 PL) repeater. Walk-ins welcome, but if you know you'll be attending, please let us know. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054. E-mail: Mike, N9GHZ, muzikman@pcpro.net.

#### JEFFERSON HAMFEST

March 18. Tests at the Public Library on Highway 26 (Main Street) at 9 a.m. Test fee \$10 to ARRL/VEC. The library meeting rooms are up the walk behind the library entrance across Main Street from the county courthouse. Talk-in on 146.52. Contact: Al Johnson, AA7CS. 920.568.0836. aa7cs@arrl.net.

HUDSON, WI (ARRL/VEC) Sponsor: St. Croix Valley AR Testing Col. Time: Call for time and walk-in info, Contact: Gregory Miller (715)386-9857 Location: St. Croix County Emergency, Government Center by jail, Carmichael Rd. lower level, Hudson, WI 54016. (Information tnx ARRL Web site)

#### HAMFEST EXAMS

Cedarburg WI - ORC Hamfest  
 Green Bay WI - ARES Hamfest  
 Hayward WI - Hayward Hamfest  
 Kaukauna WI - Swapfest  
 Manitowoc WI - Lakeshore Hamfest  
 Oak Creek WI - SMARC Hamfest  
 Rhinelander WI - NWARC Swapfest  
 Rockford IL - RARC Hamfest  
 Rothschild WI - WVRA Hamfest  
 South Milwaukee, WI - SMARC Hamfest  
 Stevens Point, WI - CWRA Swapfest  
 Waukesha WI - KMRA Swapfest  
 Waukesha WI - Midwinter Swapfest  
 Dubuque IA - Hamfest

See the Swapfest page for additional information and contact persons.

#### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

#### DUBUQUE, IOWA

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, N0KAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

#### ROCKFORD/LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail WB9QYV@aol.com

#### MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From The Ground Wave, Saint Paul Radio Club

#### Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108 Test Site: St. Paul Technical College 235 Marshall Ave. St Paul, MN. <http://www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html>

(Continued on page 11)

## From the Section Manager

Don Michalski, W9IXG



SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG--SEC:  
WB9RQR. STM: K9LGU. ACC: K9FHI.  
SGL: AD9X. OOC: W9DGI. PIC: K9ZZ.  
TC: K9GDF. ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW,  
W9CBE. BM: WB9NRK.

With deep regret I inform you of the passing of Anne Elston, KA9LBB. Also, Jerome Carpentier, N9MMT. He was a member of Polk County ARA.

Many thanks to the Amateurs (W9DGI, KG9NG, AG9G, KB9TJI, KB9DED, KB9PVI, KB9JMB, WA9NBC, N9LIA, and NZ9U) who helped me on the Northwoods cycling tour. Together we showed the power of Amateur Radio in the week-long support of the 300 riders.

Field Day was blessed with good weather and reasonable band conditions. I received messages from many clubs (Milwaukee Repeater Club, Tri-County ARC, HVARC,

FLARC, Wisconsin Rapids ARC, K9VSO group and Amateur Eagle group, e.g.) that reported great participation! Well done!!

June 9RN report indicates 100% Wisconsin participation at each net!

Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR, donated a TA33 beam to the West Allis ARC! Thanks, Lynn! Many of us are sitting on equipment that can be used by others. Don't let it collect dust! Donate it to your club or a new ham in need. You'll get more personal satisfaction out of doing that than anything else.

The Wisconsin Novice Net, 3723 kHz @ 1800 Central and Slow Speed Net, 3645 kHz @ 1830 would love to have you check in. The complete listing of Wisconsin nets is on the WNA site: [www.wna.eboard.com](http://www.wna.eboard.com).

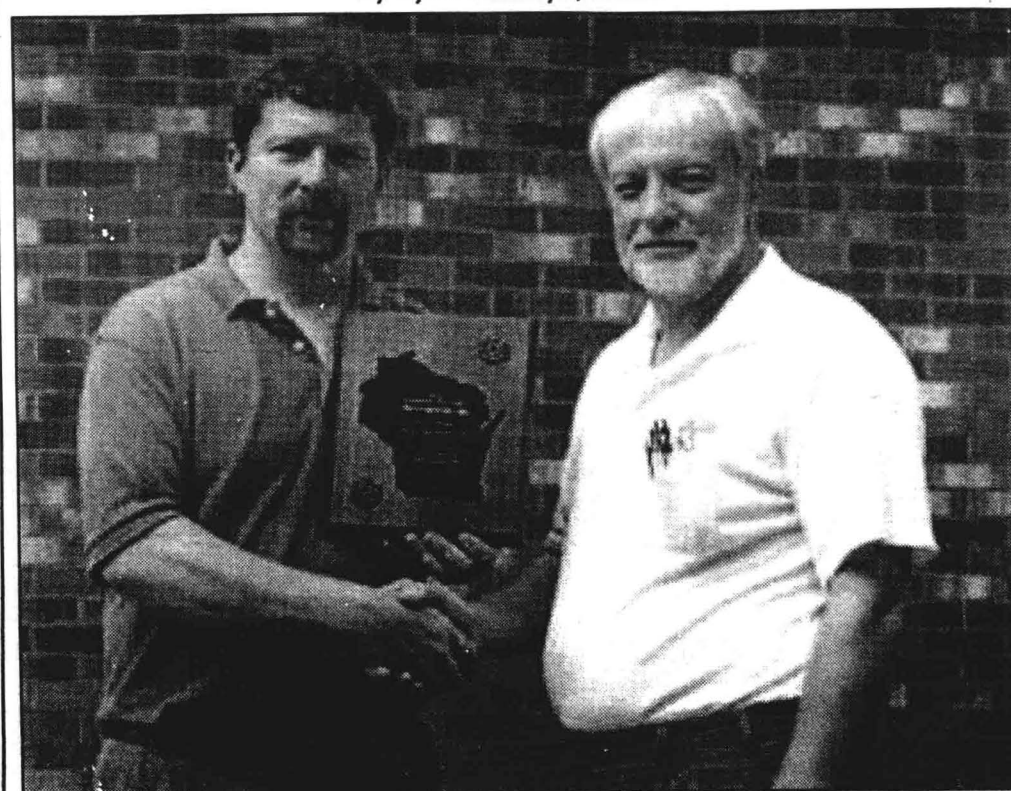
73,  
Don, W9IXG

Traffic: K9JPS 867, W9YPY 589, W9RCW 481, N9VE 444, WD9GNK 442, N9TVT 429, K9GU 409, W9CBE 311, W9IHW 272, K9LGU 108, N9BDL 97, N9FHI 81, AG9G 70, N9CK 66, W9YCV 56, KE9VU 53, KG9B 51, W9UW 37, KB9ROB 36, W9BHL 34, AA9BB 32, K9HDF 21, WB9ICH 20, WA7UVX 18, WD9FLJ 15, N9JIY 8, KA9BHK 8.

## 2001 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

### Wisconsin Single Op Top Score: N9FH

By Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR



Fred Helmstetter, N9FH, left, accepts the Wisconsin winner's plaque from 2000 WQP Chairman Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR.

Photo courtesy K9KR

WA9ORC/R



Grounds Open from  
Thursday at noon  
Flea Market open  
both days at 6 AM  
Exhibit Buildings open  
Sat 8 AM to 4 PM  
Sun 8 AM to 3 PM

The Chicago FM Club presents

# RADIO EXPO 2001

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22nd & 23rd

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Newest amateur equipment from major manufacturers  
Computer hardware and software by leading distributors  
3 large buildings (over 40,000 sq ft) for indoor flea market tables  
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Questions ??? Call Radio Expo 630.628.1501  
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---Cut Here--- ---Cut Here--- ---Cut Here--- ---Cut Here---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Table Reservations for all buildings - \$20.00 per table (8ft long) - good both days \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Building assignment at discretion of CFMC / Do not mail table/ticket requests after Sept. 8, 2001

Advanced sale tickets - \$6.00 - REQUIRED with tables - good both days \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Electric - inside - \$10.00 both days \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Outside electric - \$10.00 good for entire event \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to: CHICAGO FM CLUB & send to: 348 W. Natoma Ave. Addison IL 60101-3422  
member to send a #10 size(business) self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

One of the rewards of being the Chairman of WQP, for the West Allis Radio Amateur Club (WARAC), sponsor of the WQP, is being able to award the plaque for best single operator score each year. This year I was even **more** fortunate in that I got to visit the winning QTH as well. Fred Helmstetter, N9FH, from Mequon, lived close enough to enable me to travel to his station site for me to deliver the winner's plaque.

Heading up 76th Street, looking for a crossroad that would give me a clue as to how close I was, I spotted his two tall towers off in the distance, which are part of a former farm, that Fred purchased in 1998. Fred still has the remains of a silo, that he uses in a unique way, for part of his antenna farm - it serves as the "distribution" end of his underground coax and rotator cable runs. He converts to above ground coax in plastic boxes *inside* of the concrete walls of the silo.

The 82 foot tower is set on the former concrete floor of a burned down barn, with the ground rods punched right thru the concrete floor. It supports 5 antennas. The other tower, a 70 footer, supports 7 antennas and is the end point or center support point for 5 other ones. He also has a Hy-Gain vertical "Hi-Tower."

Some of the antennas are for VHF and UHF, which Fred operates, besides his contest, DX and HF activity.

Fred has all the feedlines coming into the basement underground.

He has converted one corner of the basement into a shack and contest operations center. The feedlines come thru an aluminum plate for grounding and lightning purposes, and terminate at two radio positions. Fred uses the SO2R concept - single operator 2 radios, with both an FT-1000MP and an IC-746, both followed by amplifiers. There are lots of other items adorning his shack, all related to the ability to operate two radios "live" - listening on one while he transmits on the other.

I listened as he explained what SO2R is and its needs. It is quite a technical challenge, but Fred appears to have put an operating station together that really works. Of course there are a number of computers, all networked together for multi-operator use, when he enters the VHF/UHF and other contests.

Fred started as a Novice in 1977. He

Continued on page 5



## N9FH: Wisconsin's top single op in the 2001 Wisconsin QSO Party

Continued from page 4

then used WB2WDW until he entered his 15 year sabbatical from Amateur Radio, during which he was in high school, college and grad school. He then re-entered the hobby with the callsign of KF9ZI, until August of 1998, when he got his present callsign of N9FH. He is a member of LEFROG (Local Emergency Field Radio Operating Group), which is basically a Field Day club with about 30 members.

This is Fred's first plaque of any kind. After seeing his station, I am sure it will not be his last.

Fred also has his own web site. If you want to take more of an in depth tour - look at [www.qsl.net/n9fh](http://www.qsl.net/n9fh).

And thanks for the hospitality Fred, I enjoyed it.

By the way, Fred operated WQP 2000 to the tune of 306 CW QSOs and 255 phone QSOs in the seven hours WQP runs. He worked 60 WI counties, 39 states and 4 Canadian provinces.

For WARAC WQP  
by Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR,  
Chairman WQP

## Michalski's "Maxed"



Meet the newest addition to the W9IXG (Don Michalski) family, Max. He's being held by Official Observer Coordinator Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, W9DGI. Max is a West Highland Terrier, "Tiny, but growing fast!"

Photo courtesy W9IXG

## Sell, Swap, Buy

**FREE 2M Beam.** Cushcraft 147-20T 10-element twist beam with vertical & horizontal elements on same mast. Used only 2 years. Partially disassembled and has a few broken elements that could be replaced. Cannot ship & must be picked up in Baraboo. Call Mark, WB9QZB at 847-774-2937.

**There's no charge for ads in Sell, Swap, Buy. Send yours to K9EN or K9ZZ, addresses on page 2. No ads will be taken verbally.**

## Things to do, stuff to write about....

Where is my circus train certificate? That's a very good question, and here is the answer: patience, please. We worked about 230 stations. I have a stack of envelopes that looks like Mount Everest in my hallway. The thing actually scares me. It doesn't sound like very many, but it is rather intimidating nevertheless.

I need to prepare the information sheet that always goes with the certificates, and I need to find ink cartridges yet for the Alps MD-1000 printer. Those carts are available, no problem, but money is. Even with the very generous donations to support the W9D operation, I am still short. So, hang loose. Your frameable certificate will yet arrive. If you worked us, of course.

Is your club's meeting, testing, and hamfest information correct on the BSSS web site? It's that time again. Those in your club or group responsible for dissemination of that information should take a peek at how it reads at [bsss.org](http://bsss.org). Some need updating, some need additions, and some may need changing. Please look. Please tell us if anything is amiss. Thank you.

We may do a sample mailing of around 5,000 copies. Nothing is cast in asphalt here yet. But either the first or second issue of 2002 is likely to go to that many addresses. If we do this, it will go to the eastern side of Minnesota, the northern half of Illinois, the northeastern corner of Iowa, and elsewhere. This is still in the talking stage.

## K9KJT and the clowns: Encore photo



We ran this photo on the front page of the August issue, so it may look a little familiar. But, I got some advice - bad, as it turned out - and the reproduction quality was, well, awful. So, we changed a few settings in how we make our halftones and we hope this version of the photo looks at least better. We strive for perfection, but when we get close, perfection just moves farther away.

K9ZZ PHOTO

**Equipment poopout:** Our little Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 6p is showing signs of wear and tear, and has had one major repair. The computer I am using is barely adequate for certain of the tasks required of it. I am guardedly optimistic that these can both be replaced some time before the end of the year. I'm looking at one of the new, lower-

priced Hewlett-Packard laser printers. I actually haven't actually seen one yet, but a picture is worth a couple dozen words.

Thank you for reading my rambling writing. Sometimes it even makes some degree of sense. If it does, history is made!

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, Editor



The Milwaukee Repeater Club Presents... our 17th Annual Swapfest!

## AMATEUR RADIO Fest 2001

### HAM RADIO, COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS

**Saturday November 3, 2001**  
**8:00 am. to 2:00 pm.**

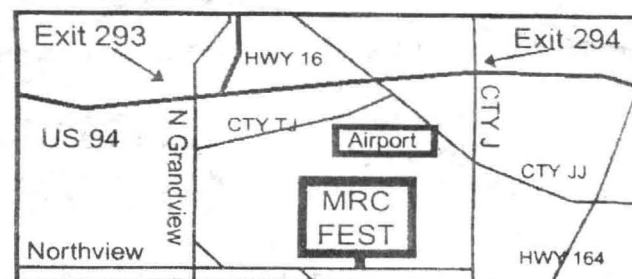
Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings  
N1 W24848 Northview Rd., Waukesha WI

Admission: \$5.00

Tables: \$15.00 per 8' table

Electricity: \$15.00

**VENDOR LOADING**  
**5:00 AM**



## AMATEUR RADIO & ELECTRONICS

Items such as: New and used Ham and CB radios, batteries, antennas, scanners, test equipment, parts, connectors, electronic components, tubes, wire, coax, cable, switches, computers, software, and much more.

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\$5.00 + tx will get you pancakes, sausage and orange juice or coffee.  
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Or Call 1-262-367-3953

### VENDOR RESERVATION - PLEASE PRINT

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ ( Each vendor must have an admission ticket. )

# of 8' Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity: Each \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**VENDOR LOADING**  
**5:00 AM**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CallSign \_\_\_\_\_

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Send your order and check payable to: Milwaukee Repeater Club / P.O. Box 2123, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2123



# The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654  
(262) 284-9346  
skaplan@mcw.edu



## No. 94: TO BUY OR TO BUILD?

We hams love to tinker with electronic gadgets, and the personal computer has been around for over 20 years. Putting those two facts together means that there are a significant number of us who have the capability to build our own computer. This month, I would like to explore the advantages and disadvantages of "rolling your own" or simply purchasing a ready-made unit. This is a subject which I have explored when teaching my Computer Architecture classes, and I have personally both built and purchased computers. Moreover, there are some points on both sides of the issue that have received industry-wide consensus, so the conclusions I present to you here are shared by many others.

### MONEY.

First, be advised that you will not save significant dollars by building your own. A year ago, with a lot of comparison shopping for parts, you might have paid \$25 less for all the parts for a \$1,000 computer than if you purchased one ready-made. That is no longer the case. Today, you will probably pay more if you purchase individual parts to assemble (I will illustrate that for you later). Well, if price is not the issue, what then are the pros and cons of the two paths toward acquiring a new machine?

### PURCHASING READY-MADE.

1. Time. You will receive your new toy within days of the time you order it.
2. Warranty. There is usually an overall warranty on the machine.
3. Software. Often bundled and installed when the machine arrives at your door.

### BUILDING YOUR OWN

1. Time. Plan to spend at least several months in acquiring all the parts, and do not begin assembly until you have gathered them all. On the other hand, you will usually get complete documentation with each part you purchase (motherboard, floppy drive, CD-ROM drive, hard drive, etc.) which is often not the case when you buy ready-made.
2. Warranty. While each part may come with its own guarantee, there will be no overall warranty for the completed machine. If anything goes wrong, you will have to troubleshoot and identify the bad part yourself, then negotiate for a replacement from the manufacturer.
3. Software. You are totally on your own for this, including the OS (operating system). However, you will usually receive more comprehensive documentation for each software package you purchase separately. This is in contrast to the sometimes skimpy documentation you receive with a ready-made machine. In addition, you are assured of receiving complete copies of the installation medium when you purchase software yourself. That does not always happen (though it should!) when you receive software bundled with a purchased computer.
4. Fun and Learning. Building your own can be informative and downright fun. There is no question that you will acquire knowledge from the process. Furthermore, since you assembled it yourself, you should be able to fix it later by replacing defective parts. On the other hand, be prepared for this. The day you turn on your newly built computer for the first time, it will be obsolete! On the other hand, the industry is moving so fast that this is probably true for a ready-made computer, too.

In the late spring of 2000, I began gathering the parts for a new machine – a 500 MHz Pentium III with all the bells and whistles, including 512 megabytes of fast memory (RAM). I turned it on for the first time during the early summer. It is a terrific machine and has given me great service since then. It cost just over \$1000, not including monitor or software.

A few weeks ago, I decided to upgrade my secondary machine, a 266 MHz Pentium MMX computer that was just too slow. This time, I shopped around for a ready-made machine, and wound up purchasing one from an eBay auction. Here is what I got.

- 800 MHz Pentium III, including mini-tower case and power supply
- 128 megabytes of PC 133 SRAM
- 20 gigabyte UDMA/66 hard drive
- 52x CD-ROM (reader only)
- 126 bit built in AGP graphics accelerator with 3D capability, and a VGA port on the motherboard
- 10/100 Mbps fast Ethernet connection, built in
- 56k FAX modem, built in
- 128 bit built in sound capability, and also a pair of external amplified stereo speakers
- 1.44 Mb floppy drive
- PS/2 keyboard and mouse, and ports for them on the motherboard
- 2 USB ports, 1 parallel port, 1 serial port

No operating system or monitor was included, but a CD-ROM disk with drivers for all the motherboard features did come with the package. My total cost for this system, including shipping to my door, was \$433! That price is hard to beat, and the machine was completely assembled and ready to run when it arrived. Indeed, I am using it now to type this article. It works very well and is v e r y fast. Nevertheless, it is already obsolete – 1 GHz machines or higher are the norm at this writing.

I do not advise purchasing on eBay unless you really know what you are doing. If you do not have much experience with computers and wish to buy ready made, my

suggestion is to look hard at a Dell Computer. They have had the best customer satisfaction rating in the industry for a number of years, and they build a good quality machine for the money. Gateway is good, too, but second best. Micron is also good. However, Dell is the best. Stay completely away from Packard Bell. Technicians in the field change the B to an H.

The statements made in the preceding paragraph can be easily confirmed by reading the results of nationwide polls covering thousands of purchasers. When thousands of people like or dislike a particular brand, it is a valid "heads up" for you to use when spending your hard-earned cash. A word to the wise ... Happy Computing!

## ARRL to the FCC: Stop the Encroachments!

The ARRL has called on the FCC to put an end to commercial encroachment on amateur allocations at 2.3 and 2.4 GHz. The League included the request in its reply comments, filed August 16, on a petition by AeroAstro to share co-primary status with the Amateur

Service at 2300 to 2305 MHz. The ARRL reiterated its stance that the company's petition represents "a Trojan Horse" and that there is no way that Amateur Radio and AeroAstro's position monitoring system could share the same spectrum.

"It is time for the Commission to stop those encroachments, because they have gone too far already," the ARRL said.

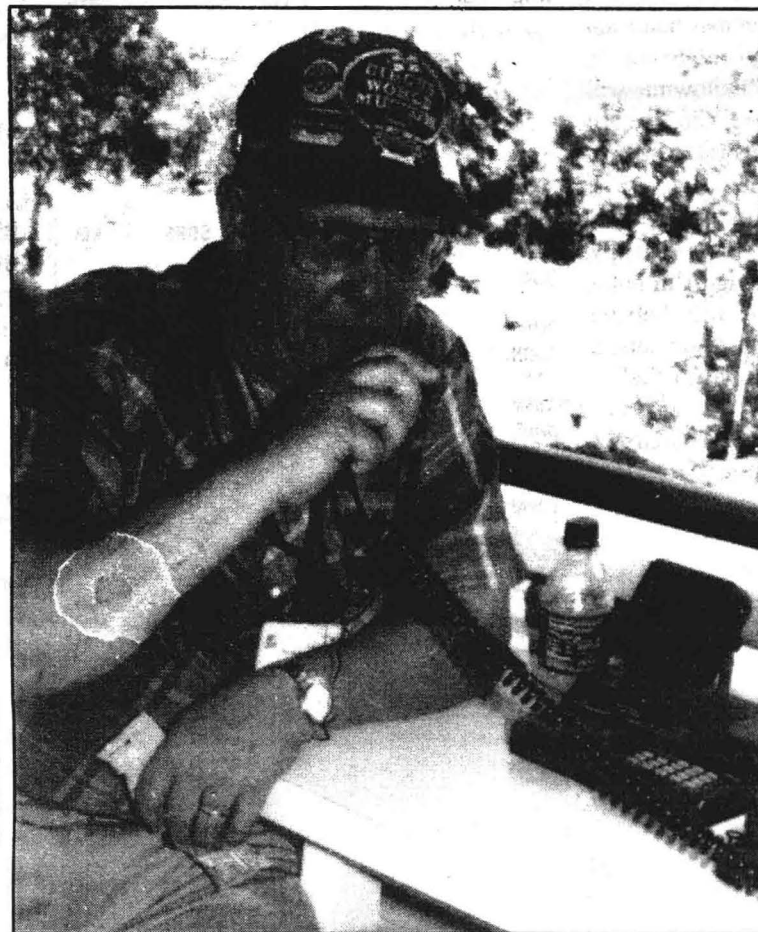
The League said AeroAstro's petition for a commercial Miscellaneous Wireless Communication Service allocation at 2300 to 2305 MHz not only would impose "preclusive operating conditions" on hams but represents "yet another in the continuing series of encroachments" into amateur allocations between 2300 and 2450 MHz. The ARRL asserted that AeroAstro has failed to back up its claim that hams and low-power commercial operations can share the band on a co-primary basis without interfering with each other. An interference study prepared by the ARRL Lab and attached to the League's comments predicts "intolerable" interference, especially to weak signals, if the AeroAstro petition were granted.

ARRL has petitioned to elevate the Amateur Service from secondary to primary status on the band and requested that no commercial operations be introduced. AeroAstro seeks co-primary status with the Amateur Service to accommodate its Satellite Enabled Notification System (SENS) position-monitoring system under MWCS rules. The FCC put both petitions on public notice last month, and both parties filed comments earlier this month. There is no primary occupant at 2300-2305 MHz.

The League asked the FCC to dismiss the AeroAstro petition as defective and to grant the League's petition for primary amateur status at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

A copy of ARRL's reply comments are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-10166/rm-10166-reply.html>

ARRL



### Doing the Duty

Phil Rebusburg, KC9CI, works at the primary communications station on the Great Circus Train. The station combines ham radio, APRS, GPS, cell phones, and the Family Radio Service. All fit neatly into a "full service" comm station to serve PR personnel, crew, and passengers, and is set up by Milwaukee County AREC, Inc.

K9ZZ PHOTO

For more immediate updates on AB-368 and lots of other information, point your web browser to

**<http://www.bs3ss.org>**

Clubs and organizations sponsoring swapfests, exam sessions, or holding meetings, should check their listings to be sure they are up to date. Thank you.

# PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

**Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary**  
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

## WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1100	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2230	1730	K9FHI
WNN	Yes	3723	2300	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	Yes	3645	2330	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61	0030	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT) (Menomonie Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0245	2145	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0200	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					

### Wisconsin STM Report July, 2001

#### Calling All Calls

When my wife and I were married, some 36 years ago, I remember the minister calling me David several times before I interrupted him. We still joke that, had I not said anything, the ceremony might not be valid. I suppose he just didn't know me well enough to remember my name. When we use a person's name, we demonstrate that we care enough to remember it. That's why even salespeople try to endear themselves to us by learning our names and then repeatedly using them as they sell. Although I'm not a big believer in that technique, I do believe it's a good idea to learn and use someone's name appropriately. And, in Amateur Radio, name = call letters.

The importance of getting calls correct has been mentioned before in terms of a net control paying attention to details. True, if the call isn't right, the station may not answer. Records reflecting station activity will be inaccurate. Perhaps most importantly, getting the call right shows we care about the holder of the call.

Recently, I had occasion to service an undeliverable message to a station on the East Coast, address inaccurate, phone not listed. As I attempted to look up the address of the originating station, I discovered that the call had never been assigned. Hmmm. Using those handy data bases now available on the Internet, I checked a list of hams in the city of origin and discovered some letters in the call had been transposed. Then, again with the help of cyberspace, I found a listed phone number for my return traffic. It was gratifying to solve the mystery, but a little care in copying the call letters as the message was passed along could have saved some time as I prepared my message.

Every detail counts. Yes, we're amateurs, but we should still be precise in what we do. This becomes especially important in ARES/RACES operation. The particulars in a message take on greater importance in times of need. Does a message number matter? It does if there should be a record or if there's going to be a reply. It does if someone needs to check the sequence in which it was sent. Does the priority matter? It certainly makes a difference when

a net control organizes how traffic will be sent. Handling instructions? Read them and decide. Every item in a formal message is there for a reason -- station of origin, place of origin, time, date, etc.

Without these essential parts, without the right call letters, the right name, everything might be different. Even today, my wife might be married to David instead of to me.

#### 73, Denny, K9LGU / STM

#### MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY July 2001

NET	QTH	QTC	QTH	SSNS	MM
BWN	1135	1484	2325	31	W9HW for W9RCW
BEN	437	53	782	31	KE9VU
WSBN	489	82	725	30	K9FHI
WNN	130	18	333	31	KB9ROB
WSSN	220	22	339	31	N9BDL
WIN/E	182	52	284	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	198	61	334	31	W9UW
TOTALS	2802	1782	5122	215	

#### STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY July 2001

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
KB9JPS	0	344	32	332	708 - BPL
W9HW	0	204	207	175	586 - BPL
W9RCW	0	251	48	251	551 - BPL
W9YPY	0	235	277	0	502 - BPL
N9TVT	0	113	312	2	439
K9GU	0	205	32	194	431 - BPL
N9VE	0	150	36	140	326 - BPL
W9CBE	0	75	88	3	160
N9BDL	0	38	67	2	107
K9LGU	5	59	26	2	92
K9FHI	0	28	51	0	79
N9CK	0	33	31	2	66
N9KHD	0	24	31	1	56
KE9VU	1	17	37	0	55
AG9G	0	3	46	0	49
WA7UVX	2	21	15	7	45
W9YCV	0	25	16	3	44
W9UW	0	33	8	0	41
KB9ROB	1	33	3	1	38
W9BHL	0	0	32	0	32
K9HDF	0	0	30	0	30
KA9BHK	0	22	0	0	22
WB9ICH	0	19	1	0	20
KG9B	0	0	17	0	17
AA9BB	0	0	14	0	14
N9JIY	0	1	4	1	6
W9RSX	0	0	3	0	3

Continued on page 8

Thanks for reading  
Badger State Smoke Signals!

## Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

**Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH, Secretary**

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

**Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output**

**Meeting Minutes of 7 August 2001, at  
Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center.**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike Wild, KB9DED.

Program: The program for this meeting consisted of a very informative presentation by Lisa Rasmussen of the details of our club insurance coverage. Lisa is a Commercial Account Executive for Manson Insurance who provides our insurance coverage. Lisa described the types of coverage provided for the club and its members during club events, what was covered, what was not covered, and answered all questions from the members present. She also gave some very useful tips on insurance coverage for members for their own personal equipment.

The second part of the program consisted of showing a video of the local TV news coverage the WVRA received of our Field Day Operations at Sunnyside Park. The news coverage of the event by both Channel 7 and 9 was excellent. Mark, N9MEA, provided the video.

Members present: N9WPH, N9PHC, N9LIA, N9TTA, W9WW, N9SDL, KA9WZH, KB9YZQ, N9NRA, KB9YDP, KB9YUH, N9MPD, N3FDE, N9NRC, K9AEG, KB9STB, KB9YPS, KB9DED, N9NMH, KB9OPQ, KB9VBR, KB9PVI, N9MEA, KB9RXA, K9MCZ, and also welcome to visitors who are or will be working on achieving their ham license: Jon G., Frank D., and Josh S.

#### Secretary's report

As published in *Badger State Smoke Signals* and posted on the WVRA Web Site:

(home.dwave.net/~wvra/).

Motion to accept: There was no meeting held in July.

#### Treasurer's report

Motion to accept: W9WW, second: KB9STB.

#### Old Business

1. A club picnic was held at Rib Mountain State Park in July instead of a regular meeting. It was fun for all who attended.

2. The club's new repeater antenna and feed line is now installed at the 92' level on the new Rib Mountain Tower. Final installation of the new radio equipment will be completed sometime this summer / early fall.

3. We will be building a new antenna for our 220 MHz repeater. The repeater will then be put back on the air when this work is completed. If you want to help, contact Mark, N9MEA.

4. Field Day results: 302 total contacts, 219 on phone, 83 on RTTY. Total points should be 1492. Extra points were earned for

APRS, use of solar power, and use of emergency generator power. A good time was had by all who attended, and there was also some very good media coverage of the event.

5. The listing of our club repeaters has been updated and coordinated with the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters. You can download Wisconsin repeater frequency information from [www.wi-repeaters.org](http://www.wi-repeaters.org)

6. Matt, N9NMH, reports that help is still needed to repair and outfit our club trailer. We are looking for volunteers and equipment donations to help outfit it. A list was circulated for equipment needed / desired. See Matt or the club Secretary for a copy of the list if you would like to donate an item. The trailer itself needs new lights, tires, and some bodywork. The plan is to work on the trailer over the winter and have it be completed by next Spring. If you can help in any way, please contact Matt.

#### New Business

1. Mike KB9VBR discussed and showed print outs of antenna propagation computer modeling software. He had examples of the predicted propagation performance of our 146.64 MHz repeater antenna on the Rib Mountain tower. Mike would like feedback from hams on the actual performance of getting into this repeater from fringe areas, to verify the computer model.

2. Some items will be coming available for sale for raising money for the club. These are: 2M GE Radios for use on APRS. See Mark, N9MEA, if interested.

3. There is an estate sale of some used HF radio equipment, connectors, antennas, power supplies, etc. See Matt, N9NMH, for the listing if you are interested.

4. Mike, KB9VBR, is starting a new ARES Drill Net to be conducted once a week on different days / times each week. It is designed to determine how many operators are listening and available at any given time to be available to participate in emergency services like weather spotting, etc. Mike is looking for net controllers to sign-up for running these nets.

5. Scott, KB9PVI, is still looking for short items from members to include on the club web site. (minimum of 1 paragraph). Please send to him at [winterscott@hotmail.com](mailto:winterscott@hotmail.com).

6. Kim, N9SDL, is planning to conduct licensing classes for the Amateur Radio Technician Class license starting sometime in September. Kim will teach the 12 sessions that will be conducted twice weekly for six weeks (Monday and Wednesday nights). Hours will be approximately 6:30 to 9:00

Please turn to page 8



## Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Continued from page 7

p.m., and be held at the Wausau Window and Wall Systems conference room. There is a testing session planned for after classes are completed. This should all be firmed up by the September club meeting. Please contact Kim if you can lend teaching assistance at the sessions and/or participate in discussions during the classes.

7. Mark, N9MEA, is looking for volunteers to participate in the DNR Mock Fire Exercise that will be conducted on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2001, at Big Flats, WI. The group from the WVRA will be leaving approximately 6:00 a.m. and is planning an APRS demonstration along with being available for radio service. The exercise is scheduled for

8:00 a.m. to noon, with a debrief and lunch afterward. Other groups that may be participating are: DNR, Wardens, Sheriff, State Patrol, Salvation Army, etc. See Mark to sign up if interested.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Motion: W9WW, second: N9SDL.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2001, at 7 p.m. at the Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the employee parking lot on the West side of the building. Call in on the 2M club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 146.64 (PL 114.8).

September Program: To be announced.

Respectfully submitted:  
Greg Barr, K9MCZ  
(k9mcz@arrl.net)  
WVRA Secretary



## SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Sky Borgenhagen, N9XRU, Secretary  
N6466 Plank Circle • Glenbeulah WI 53023

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The August meeting was called to order by club President, Mike, K9SJ, at 7:00 p.m. local time. There were 13 members present at the meeting.

The SCARC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the lower basement room at the Red Cross building at 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan.

Mike, K9SJ, opened the meeting with the announcement of the new SCARC web site. For those interested, the site address is <http://www.flybynightlinux.com/~scarc>

Mike reminded members of the upcoming Thursday night ARES net on 443.225 + MHz PL 107.2 at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the ARES repeater now has a propane gen-set back up.

Mike, K9SJ, opened discussion on the matter of the new vanity club call sign. Several members shared stories, experiences, and reminisced about Irv, W9VCL also known as "Doc". Irv was one of our past members and is now a silent key. Several members expressed that Doc did a lot for the club and promoted amateur radio to the public. He was the original recipient of the club's first ham of the year award, the first lifetime club member, and started the CW award. Doc was well known and respected in the community as well. It was a unanimous to go ahead with the new club vanity call as W9VCL in memory of Doc.

New business: Wally, W9SDH, proposed the use of banners, T-shirts and ID badges for club events to let people know who we are and to promote amateur radio in

the community.

Steve, AA9SJ, had the club station open at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> for inspection and operation and reported many contacts were made despite the poor band conditions.

Steve, N9TRK, requested any additional members who are able to help out with all or part of the Plank Road Trail Event on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> should contact him via e-mail, phone or during the Monday night net.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. local time.

Just a reminder, club dues are now due! If you haven't paid your 2001-2002 dues, please bring to the next club meeting or send to SCARC, P.O. Box 1282, Sheboygan, WI 53082-1282.

### Net Schedule

The SCARC 2 Meter net meets Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. on 147.060, PL107.2 +. This is a fun net and all are welcome to join us. Any members willing to take net control for one or more nights should contact Steve, N9TRK.

### Saturday Morning Breakfasts

The Saturday morning Sheboygan hams breakfasts are held in the following venues at 8 a.m.

1st Saturday - Jumes in Sheboygan

2nd Saturday - Family Restaurant in Cleveland

3rd Saturday - Plymouth Family Restaurant, Mill Street in Plymouth

4th Saturday - Park View Restaurant, County PP Sheboygan Falls

5th Saturday - open for suggestions...?

Hams, spouses, hangers on and such are welcome.

### E-mail List

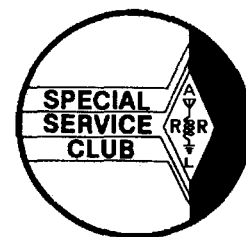
If you use e-mail, consider signing up on the Sheboygan hams mailing list. Simply submit your e-mail address to:

## Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE,  
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI  
54221-0204

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output



The Mancorad Radio Club monthly meeting was held Aug. 8th at the Waldo Blvd. club shack, starting at 7:40.

July meeting minutes were approved with motions by Denise (N9WGK) and Gene (KB9KXF). Roger (W9NPX) gave the monthly treasurer's report which was also approved by motions made by Len (N9QFO) and Travis (KB9YRC).

The club voted in a new member that night. A warm welcome to Shawn Kurschner (KC9AAH). Motions made by Red (N9GHE) and Bob (KB9INK). Acceptance was unanimous.

President Fred (W6BSF) reported that the HamFest committee was checking in the BilMar as a possible site to hold future HamFests. Red (N9GHE) and Fred (W6BSF) will visit the club to check out the size of the hall and discuss other particulars.

A huge thank you was given by Fred (W6BSF) to all members who helped out in any way for the Kewaunee Nuclear Drill last month. Travis attended the wrap up meeting and reported we were given high marks for our participation and that all things went fairly smoothly. Thank you to Travis (KB9YRC) for representing our club.

All members are reminded that the annual club family picnic is fast approaching. It will be held Sept. 29th at Lincoln Park, starting at noon with lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and your own drinks. Meat and condiments and other supplies will be provided by the club. Games for the kids and at least one T-hunt will be held.

Everyone is also reminded that in October the club will be voting in officers and board members. Next month a committee of 3 will be formed to call all members to ask for nominations. Please consider running for an office and saying yes when the members call.

A short discussion was raised about the future plans for the club shack and equipment to be set up in it. We do not have our phone system up and running as of yet, but we are assured it will be coming shortly.

Attendance drawing was held with Ray Koehler being drawn, but not in attendance. So the pot goes to \$6.00.

Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 at the club shack on September 11th. Hope to see all of you there.

Motions were made by Dan (N9FVZ) and James (KB9GOX). Meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Submitted for approval:  
Theresa Hartlaub (KB9KXE)  
Secretary

### Club Attendance

W9NPX Roger	N4WGK Denise
KB9INK Bob	N9QFO Len
W6BSF Fred	N9WUN Chuck
KB9GOX James	KB9KXF Gene
KC9AAH Shawn	N9AWG Ramf
KB9YRC Travis	KB9KXE Theresa
KB9VLS Chris	N9GHE Red
N9FVZ Dan	



I TRIMMED IT SHORT BECAUSE I WAS ADVISED THAT LONG CO-AX RUNS ARE NOT GOOD AT UHF FREQUENCIES

<julian@bongo.tele.com>.

All e-mail sent to

<shebham@tele.com>

will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks again!, N6ARE for providing this wonderful mail server for SCARC use.

Club Postal  
Mailing Address

SCARC, PO Box 1282, Sheboygan, WI  
53081-1282.

Respectfully submitted:  
Sky Borgenhagen,  
N9XRU

## Wisconsin Nets Association

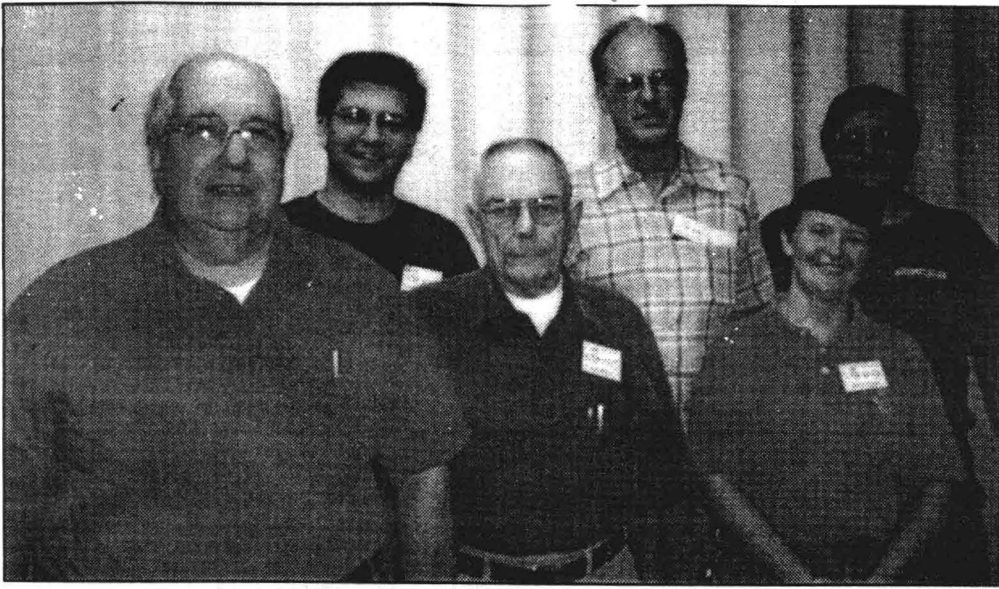
Continued from page 7

### PSNR SUMMARY July 2001

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
K9JPS	35	21	0	332	0	10	0	0	398
W9RCW	40	0	0	251	0	30	0	0	321
N9VE	38	8	0	140	0	30	0	0	244
K9FHI	60	24	24	0	0	30	10	30	178
N9BDL	60	24	24	2	0	30	0	0	140
N9TVT	60	24	24	1	0	10	0	0	132
W9CBE	60	24	24	3	0	20	0	0	131
W9YCV	60	24	24	0	0	20	0	0	131
K9LGU	60	18	24	2	5	20	0	0	129
AG8G	60	24	18	0	0	10	0	0	112
W47UVX	60	0	24	7	2	10	0	0	103



## Part of a WQP winning team



The club competition in the 2001 Wisconsin QSO Party was won by the Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club of Madison. Part of that effort was put forth by these fine folks: Roger Deicher, K9EMG; Tim Czerwonka, W09U; Bud Morin, K9ZT; George Shands, W9WUU; Mary Jones, KF9ZB; and Ted Gisske, K9IMM.

## Lower Amateur Radio Vanity Fee is Effective September 10

The FCC says the fee for a new or renewed Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop to \$12 on September 10. Applications received on or after that date will be subject to the new fee. The current vanity call sign fee is \$14.

The FCC proposed the lower fee last March in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2001. The FCC has estimated that 8000 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in the current fiscal year.

Earlier this year, the FCC also put paper and electronic vanity call sign applications on an equal footing in terms of processing priority. The FCC used to give priority to

electronic applications for vanity call signs.

FCC rules stipulate refunds for applicants who inadvertently overpay a regulatory fee. Applicants who determine that they overpaid a vanity fee may request a refund in writing. Requests seeking a "Vanity Fee Overpayment Refund" go to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245. Refund requests should indicate the date of application, the total fee paid, and the total refund owed.

For more information, visit the FCC Amateur Radio Web page,

<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur/VanityCS.html>

ARRL

## Lakeshore Repeater Association

**147.270 MHz • Racine, Wisconsin**

**Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO • 5400 Six Mile Road  
Racine, WI 53402-9741 • wa9jmo@wi.net**

I have been told that our nomination chair has found a slate of candidates for your selection to serve as the Repeater's 2002 Board of Directors. I just have not been told who they are for sure. I have a general idea, but until it has been confirmed by that committee's chair, I am not making public comments on that topic at this time. I have inserted my 'foot-into-my-mouth' on too many occasions in the not so distance past; to rationally and boldly state what is about to happen. After being accused of "not-play-with-a-full-deck" and being a "house-with-all-the-lights-on-with-no-one-at-home", I try not to forecast an event before it happens. That means you will all have to wait until the next column to find out who has been proposed to lead this fine organization.

Our two-meter repeater has been almost flawless in its continuous operation. Just one little gremlin has been hopping in and around our frequencies. We shall catch you and return you to the 11-meter band where you belong. Those kinds of antics are expected and commonplace there.

Our wonderful 70-cm repeater is performing up to expectations at its temporary location on Dunkalow Road in the Town of Caledonia. It's brand new antenna has been field tested, the power amp installed, the side mounting bracket is in route to Racine and a climb date is expected to be set by the middle of September. From a height of 380-feet, our 442.000/447.000 MHz repeater should be very impressive as one drives through the middle of

Illinois, out past Madison and into Green Bay. Do I jest? I think not, just give a listen to that frequency after the system begins its high level operation in and around the Greater Northern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin corridors.

Our last quarterly Repeater meeting and election will be held in the lower classroom of the America Red Cross building, 4751 Taylor Ave. in Racine beginning at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 23, 2001. The topic of interest, beside the election should revolve around our 70-cm repeater. Please join us.

**73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, President,  
Lakeshore Repeater Association.**

### ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service address changes with call sign

ARRL Information Systems Manager Don Durand reminds ARRL members who are planning to obtain new calls sign that their ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service address will follow suit. So, plan ahead. The @arrl.net system is designed to provide only one e-mail forwarding address per member, based on your current call sign. Durand says the system will automatically update your ARRL E-Mail Forwarding System address to reflect your new call sign. ARRL membership records also are automatically updated using data provided by the FCC Amateur Service database. Visit the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.htm>> for more information.

## M&M Radio Club special event: Let there be light



The radio club on the Michigan/Wisconsin border, the M&M Radio Club, operated a special event station August 4, 2001 which commemorated the Menominee Pier Light during the Waterfront Festival. Among those on deck were Wisconsin's genial Section Manager, Don, W9IXG; Ed, KG8CX; and Jim, K8IR. Behind them is a tent and the club's new banner.

PHOTO VIA DON MICHALSKI, W9IXG

### Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

**Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO  
5400 Six Mile Road  
Racine, WI 53402**



The 2001 QCWA International Cruise Convention begins an eight-day adventure on Saturday, October 27, 2001 as Holland America's *Westerdam* sails out of Port Everglades, Florida, with Chapter 162 as Convention Host. QCWA's Board of Directors will meet at a Miami hotel for their annual get together. Only half the board will be taking the cruise so a compromise was struck; the board will meet in Miami the day before the cruise and the 8-days outing would be sanctioned by the board as an Amateur Radio endeavor.

In September of 1999, as I pitched this concept to the Board and members attending the annual convention in St Louis, Mo, I envisioned that the booking of 25 cabins would be a very big turn out. Today we are knocking on the door of our 150<sup>th</sup> cabin booked. Wow!

With the board's approval the next spring, and the only official advertising coming in the form of flyers in the quarterly QCWA Journal, we attracted a lot of interest and confirmed bookings. Alan Pickering's, KJ9N, *Worldradio* column keep the cruise active in the minds of *World Radio's* readers. And he and Croft Taylor, VE3CT, QCWA's Vice President travel to just about every city in Florida where QCWA members gathered and sold those folks on the cruise. Between a quarter and a third of the almost 300 folks who are currently signed up, call Florida home.

Three of the cruise highlights, I believe will be our stop and tour of the Arecibo Observatory in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The observatory is normally closed the day we are visiting, but because of the large demand by our cruising Hams to visit that facility, I was able to arrange for a special tour for our group.

The six-hour adventure should produce a few good articles and a wealth of pictures. Hopefully this publication will host those items in their next several issues.

The second event will be a luncheon with the Virgin Island Radio Club in St Thomas. The island Hams usually present a certificate bestowing Honorary Club Membership onto all their visiting Amateur Radio brethren. I have it on good authority that for the price of lunch, we may be able to persuade the club president to fill out and sign certificates for our visiting Radio people. As of today, we have 150 folks

wanting to lunch with the Island Hams. And that little island has a two-meter repeater on top of a very high mountain. HT coverage should be fantastic!

Our third venture will be the operation onboard of several HF stations. We have received written permission to operate in the 10, 15 and 20-meter bands from the rear of the ship. Depending of the number of operators and time they wish to spend on the air, we may run a special event station on set frequencies. This is still to be determined.

The ship is throwing a large cocktail party for our group in one of the lounges, with a large selection of door prizes, drinks and food galore. We will be trying to publish a special daily Ham bulletin, host several related radio forums, and present an Amateur Radio Open Mike program, where any Ham can talk about any Ham related topic that is hopefully of interest to our audience.

We are also looking to garner enough pictures, stories and concern to entice all of the Amateur Radio Publications to run our material well into 2002. We are going to have a grand time!

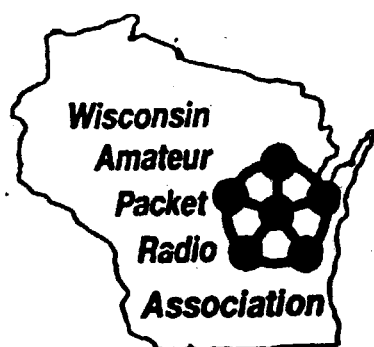
If you would like to join us, please do, there are still cabins in each price category available from White Travel Services in West Hartford, CT, our official travel agency. They may be reached at 1-800-547-4790.

Additional details and comments can be obtained from me by calling 262-639-7327 and/or emailing: [wa9jmo@wi.net](mailto:wa9jmo@wi.net).

73,

**Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO,  
Chapter 162, President and 2001 QCWA  
International Cruise Convention Chair.**

**Got a story to tell, pictures  
of ham activities to share?  
We have the space. Please  
send to K9ZZ at the email  
or snail addresses on page  
2. Thanks!**



# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Larry Shields, WD9ESU, Treasurer, W8929 Highway K, Lodi, WI 53555

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor · 453 Cottage Grove Avenue · Green Bay, WI 54304 · e-mail: kb9aln@gbonline.com

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

WAPR News - September, 2001

Hello and welcome to September and soon, Fall. This is the time to start looking at that bothersome pre-winter outside maintenance work. Checking feedlines, antennas, tightening guy wires and tower bolts are what Fall usually means to amateurs. That and perhaps, more activity on Packet.

Packet radio has had a certain level of activity over the summer months, and has been integral to some emergency operations and drills that we've undertaken this summer. Here in Northeastern Wisconsin, we've seen the automated report-and-print system at the Green Bay NWS office put to work with success. And a July 31st drill involving the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant went well - utilizing packet radio in addition to voice, of course.

Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties' ARES/RACES units were able to successfully conference with the Wisconsin DEM Ham Shack on the WIGRB Node in Green Bay with reasonable reliability during this drill. That was a far cry from a few years ago when the paths were not reliable and getting through was very tough. I'd like to thank all of the node owners and operators for their good work at improving this situation and look forward to more network enhancements in the future.

Wireless networking (the "new" term for radio-connected computing) is what we're all about, of course. In the last few years we've seen what I would consider an uncomfortable shift in our hobby. We've seen increasing reliance on the Internet to help complete our network, and sometimes this is not a good thing. While I applaud people who take the time and effort to provide packet radio operators with gateways and other such Internet-based connectivity, reliance on the Internet alone can prove to be a problem. This is especially true when you think of the disaster support communications that hams have been famous for over the years.

Sure, we could set up an Internet worm-hole and make our connections to the state DEM in Madison easy-as-pie. And it would be far faster than our current radio-based speeds (which could, by the way, be much higher). However, we have to consider that the Internet, for all of its reliability, is vulnerable. Consider what happened in July and August - it was covered quite prominently in the mainstream media.

All the media outlets were covering the release of "Code Red", and it's even more devastating spin-off, "Code Red II". Code Red, as you probably heard, affects Microsoft Internet Information Servers installed on computers operating with the Microsoft Windows 2000 and Microsoft Windows NT operating systems. It's classified as a "worm" that spreads to other machines, intermittently probing other computers to find a host to infect.

While it did not shut the entire Internet down, it slowed traffic to a crawl in some places when it was active. At about the same time, a major fire on the east coast burned fiber-optic lines, further crippling Internet traffic. What was not reported in the mainstream media was the effect it had on computers that were connected to both the Internet and the Amateur Packet Radio network.

Almost all Amateur Radio traffic sent through the Internet is routed through one computer system at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) that functions as a network "router". A router accepts packets from a source computer and sends them to the proper destination.

This router was crippled by the Code Red worm - effectively preventing most Amateur Radio traffic from propagating through the Internet. This system was being "probed to death" and most all of the traffic stopped cold (or was drastically slowed).

This points out one important fact that should make most people reconsider exclusive reliance on the Internet - the Internet is indeed vulnerable and can't be counted on in times of disaster. If we had some disaster that required

us to use packet radio over any distance while the Code Red worm was active, we would be out of luck if we relied heavily on the Internet to carry packet traffic. Times of disaster are when emergency management agencies rely on us most. Murphy's law dictates that we will eventually see this happen if we rely on the Internet exclusively to complete our packet network.

Which means that we simply must do all we can to complete our radio network. Not just an RTTY-speed text-capable network, but one that is nearly as functional as the Internet, and fast, too.

Every amateur - even if they don't use packet radio on a regular basis - should realize that packet radio is a vital tool for hams engaging in emergency operations. UHF and Microwave Amateur Radio backbones are not as prone to the solar flares that disrupt MF and HF paths, and provide the added benefit of sending text, pictures and information files that would be cumbersome or impossible to send by voice. Packet Radio networks are a chain - and we can't rely on the Internet as a link in this chain. Sure, the Internet is a nice addition to a network and if a radio system fails, we may be able to utilize it temporarily to complete a missing link.

However, we need to get back to what we're all about - a reliable wireless computer network.

Have comments or questions? Feel free to send me a note at one of the addresses at the top of this page.

One more thing to touch on this month. We'll soon be putting another WAPR meeting together. If you have a suggestion as to location, please do let me know. As soon as we can work out the details, I'll be sure to let everyone know.

That's all for now. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

## Net/Rom Node Information for the Sysop - Part Six

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

This is part 6 of a series designed to help node Sysops learn more about the popular TheNet X-1J series of nodes. We'll skip over the more common user commands and devote our discussion to commands used by the Sysop. In this part, we'll look at the BBS, BBSALIAS, BRATE and BTEXT commands.

### BBS

If you have a BBS that is accessible through your node stack, this command makes life easier for your users. When BBS is entered as a command by a user, they'll be connected to a BBS set by the Sysop. No call-sign or alias needs to be remembered by the user, which certainly makes it easy for out-of-town packet operators.

When the Sysop enters the command when the node is in the Sysop mode, the Sysop has options to set the BBS, as well as to clear an entry that was previously made. Here are the various Sysop forms of the command:

### BBS \*

Clears the node's entry for the BBS, if one was set. Usually, a Sysop only needs to enter this command if he or she wishes to clear or change a current designated BBS. If the BBS is cleared, the command is disabled.

### BBS ?

Asks the node what call-sign has been entered as the BBS.

## WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME BBS: \_\_\_\_\_ FREQ: \_\_\_\_\_ (Listing your home BBS is important)

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ NIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ 24 HOURS

I OPERATE A: \_\_\_\_\_ DIGIPEATER WITH AN ALIAS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTERST/EXPERTISE IS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YES: I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues will go to pay the subscription. Cost \$20.00.

\_\_\_\_\_ NO: I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke signals as part of WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00.

Complete and return this form with your check or money order — \$15.00 for membership only or \$20.00 for membership and Badger State Smoke Signals, made payable to W.A.P.R. to:

Larry Shields, WD9ESU, Treasurer,  
W8929 Highway K  
Lodi, WI 53555



BBS (call-sign)

Sets the call-sign to be either the actual call-sign or the BBS alias. Only valid node alias if the call-sign validation is active.

BBSALIAS

This is another command. It does not get broadcast means it won't connect to itself if the BBS is active. For example, if the BBS is on a 232 port, one has to connect to the BBS. A user normally would type "BBS", or the BBS command. This eliminates a direct connection to the BBS.

It operates in the BBS and BBSA direct connection. The BBS command takes two forms:

BBSALIAS \*

clears the current

BBSALIAS (call-sign)

will set this address to whatever call-sign is used.

One note of caution: the BBS is not on the LAN, and the node will try to answer a request, and no one can connect to the BBS when using the same call-sign.

BRATE

This command is used to set the TheNet X-1J firmware speed used to communicate with the stack. If the firmware is not used, it is not used.

BRATE \*

will clear the current

BRATE (choose from 1200, 19200)

Sets the serial port for TheNet X1-J to function well, as it is a

BTEXT

This sets the beacon when it beacons - for the beacon the node's exist overdo it. Naturally, the port, and not the RS of this command:

BTEXT

sent to the node is in Sysop mode. The text, the beacon message can send BTEXT ? is.

BTEXT \*

As you can see, it sets it to nothing, blank

BTEXT (beacon)

will set up the beacon packet. The total limited to 160 bytes including spaces, control characters and can be separated by multiple lines. The with a blank line. The and it's really not a blank character combination (documentation) at the

to connect to. This can be Node alias of the BBS. if the call-sign validation is active.

node can be known by. separate node, which BBS's node broadcast it. It's used as a short-cut to a node directly. connected to the node's RS to connect to the BBS. to the node, and then alias of the BBS/Node. hat the user sees as a n.

the BBS command. If set, then the seemingly the BBSALIAS com-

-type Alias)

alias to whatever call-

you must make certain cy as the node and using a BBS has a port on the LAN, two stations This will, in all likelihood, generate a "Frame" response to a connect to connect to the BBS SALIAS on the Node.

the PK-96 TNC when It sets the serial port ther TNCs on a node a TNC-2 or clone, it

ed.

00, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200)


corresponding speed. 19200 bps may not

that you want it to say le it is a good thing to me to time, it's easy to only seen on the radio are the various forms

Sysop while the node play what the beacon Alternatively, the Sysop at the current BTEXT

the beacon text and

the text as a UI Beacon packet. The total limited to 160 bytes including spaces, control characters and can be separated by multiple lines. The with a blank line. The and it's really not a blank character combination (documentation) at the




## Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

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**WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)**  
**K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)**

**Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315**

**Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary**  
**450 W. 2nd St., Reedsburg, WI 53959-1500**



The August 7, 2001 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:42 p.m. by club President Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

Minutes for the July 7, 2001 meeting were approved. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX gave the treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussed the memorial for silent key Bob King. Ann Klinkner will check what the South Central Library system currently has in terms of ham radio books and videos. Preparations for the hamfest continued. There was a change in buildings at the fairgrounds due to a change in the board and because a wedding was booked for the commercial building. This reduced space for the hamfest and rental costs. Items received for the door prizes were ARRL material/books, a one year subscription to Amateur Radio Trader, 24 hour clock from MFI, through K9ZZ and Tower Electronics. Steve received an e-mail from a ham in Illinois who pointed out two other ham fests at the time we will be having ours and suggests we consider a later date in August.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. to the fair grounds to

on most packet terminals as a blank line.

One note concerning BTEXT - if you forget to send the BTEXT \* command before programming a new message, the "new message" will simply be added to the old one, if the total doesn't exceed 160 Bytes. Which is how you get a beacon text message to be displayed in multiple lines. The Sysop would enter each line of text in succession, each preceded by BTEXT. In this example, we start by clearing the current message:

**BTEXT \***

**BTEXT** This is the first line.

**BTEXT** This is line 2.

**BTEXT** This is line 3.

When the beacon is sent, most packet stations monitoring the frequency will see this:

**NODE-CALL-SIGN > BEACON UI:**

This is the first line.

This is line 2.

This is line 3.

This method works for other types of text the node sends, such as CTEXT (the text users see when they connect to the node). We'll discuss that in a future part of this series.

That's all for this part. Next month, we'll continue our alphabetical exploration of the Sysop commands for these nodes. Until then, 73 from Andy.

(Continued from page 3)

## THE TEST POINT

**Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)**  
**TESTING:** Second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. **Contact:** Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143 **Test Site:** Blaine City Hall 9150 Central Ave NE Blaine, MN **Bloomington Office of Emergency Management**

**Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC)**  
**TESTING:** Fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. **Contact:** Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756 **Test Site:** Fire Station No. 1 94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S. Bloomington, MN

**Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)**  
**TESTING:** Second Thursday of the month, 7

plan where the parking, tailgate area and ticket collection would be.

**HAMFEST SATURDAY** August 11, 2001 at the Sauk County Fairgrounds. Next meeting will be Tuesday September 4, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baraboo Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted:  
Raymond J Matlosz, N9MLZ  
club secretary

The following members were present:

Duane Grotophorst	N9DG	North Free-
dom		
David Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City
Anne Klinkner	N9PQL	Sauk City
Patrick Klinkner		Sauk City
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg

p.m. **Contact:** Bill Martin, A10D (612) 432-0438  
**Test Site:** Hayes Community Center 14601 Hayes Road Apple Valley, MN

**W5YI Group**  
**TESTING:** Third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. **Contact:** Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553 **Test Site:** Eden Prairie Library 479 Eden Prairie Drive Eden Prairie, MN

**SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)**  
**TESTING:** Third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. **Contact:** Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678 **Test Site:** Cottage Grove fire Station 8641 80th St., S Cottage Grove, MN.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to kebneter@palacenet.net.



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# SWAPFESTS



31st ANNUAL MIDWINTER

## SWAPFEST

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SATURDAY

JANUARY 5, 2002

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## HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING! MADISON SWAPFEST

April 8, 2001

Mandt Community Center  
400 Mandt Parkway • Stoughton, WI  
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Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY  
P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890  
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## SWAPFEST 01

2001 ♦ July 7

(Held every July)

American Legion Park

Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI

(414) 762-3235

P. O. Box 102

Extension: Ask for Verne  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

## SEWFARS SWAPFEST

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Radio, Electronic, Computer Swapfest

[www.ns9c.org](http://www.ns9c.org)

North Shore Radio Club / Box 1066 Highland Park, IL / 60035

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

## HAMFEST 2001

Saturday, June 9, 2001

For Information Contact:

Jim Staats KG9RA at 715-838-9108

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

<http://www.ecarc.org> [w9eau@ecarc.org](mailto:w9eau@ecarc.org)

The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents

## AMATEUR RADIO Fest 2001

Saturday, November 3, 2001

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings

For more information, see

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email: [mrc@execpc.com](mailto:mrc@execpc.com)

or call 1.262.367.3953

Ozaukee Radio Club

## 23RD ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST

Saturday, May 5, 2001

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center

Intersection of Highway 60 and County I

Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,

5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222

Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club

W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg, WI 53012

## Circus City Swapfest

Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Saturday August 11, 2001 • 7 am - Noon  
Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI

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Tail Gate Area

\$4 - Advanced  
\$5 - At Gate  
8 Foot Tables - \$5

Steve Schulze, N9UDO

(608)356-2313

<http://www.qsl.net/yarc/hamfest.htm>

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX

(608)643-6908/643-6453

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